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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 SAM-01 EB-11 OMB-01 CIEP-02

/145 W

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R 160930Z JUL 74
FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0723
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 131

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FR, IS, COE
SUBJECT: ISRAEL TO OPEN CONSULATE GENERAL IN STRASBOURG

1. ISRAEL HAS DECIDED TO OPEN A CONSULATE GENERAL IN STRASBOURG WHICH, BESIDES COVERING ALL OF EASTERN FRANCE, CAN BE EXPECTED TO GIVE ISRAEL A MORE PERMANENT BASIS FOR CONTACTS WITH THE 17 NATION COUNCIL OF EUROPE HERE. SINCE 1957, ISRAEL HAS SENT PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVERS TO THE SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL'S ASSEMBLY, AND SOMETIMES TO ITS COMMITTEE MEETINGS. WITH NEW CONSULATE GENERAL, ISRAEL WILL NOW HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THE COUNCIL'S SECRETARIAT AND BE BETTER POSITIONED TO FOLLOW THE COUNCIL S INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORK. INTERESTINGLY, LOCAL PRESS STORY QUOTED ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING NEW CONSUL GENERAL WILL WORK THROUGH THE COUNCIL TO TIGHTEN TIES WITH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

2. NEW CONSUL GENERAL IS TO BE MENAHEM CARMON, FORMER CONSUL GENERAL IN ISTANBUL AND AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL. HE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN STRASBOURG IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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3. WHILE PRESENT ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP WITH ASSEMBLY FOLLOWS

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THE PATTERN SET EARLIER BY AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND, FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE COUNCIL IS NOT IN THE QUESTION: ISRAEL MEETS THE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY CRITERIA, BUT IS OUTSIDE EUROPE. OF NOTE, HOWEVER, IS THE FACT THAT LEBANON IS CURRENTLY APPLYING FOR OBSERVER STATUS. FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF GOLDA MEIR'S ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY LAST FALL, AND WITH A SIMILAR INVITATION TO SADAT ALREADY ON THE PUBLIC RECORD, THE ISRAELI MOVE TOWARDS CLOSER TIES WITH THE COUNCIL SEEMS TIMED TO STAY SEVERAL STEPS AHEAD OF THE ARABS. TOGETHER WITH LEBANON'S BID, IT MAY ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE COUNCIL IS BEGINNING TO BE SEEN AS OFFERING A LESS-CHARGED ATMOSPHERE AND A BROADER POLITICAL BASE FOR DISCUSSION OF MID-EAST PROBLEMS THAN OTHER EUROPEAN FORUMS.VEALE

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